

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of altering functionality of a device based on location, the method comprising, in combination:

when the device is in a given location, the device receiving a control signal associated with the given location; and

5 in response to the control signal, changing the set of control logic so as to alter application-layer functionality of the device.

2. A method of altering operation of a device based on location, the device having a set of control logic that defines a first functional response to a first primitive, the method comprising, in combination:

(a) when the device is in a given location, the device receiving a control signal associated with the given location; and

(b) in response to the control signal, changing the set of control logic so as to alter the first functional response to the first primitive.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first primitive comprises a predetermined signal structure received from a communications interface.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first functional response to the first primitive comprises presenting a first signal to a user, and wherein changing the set of control logic of the device so as to alter the first functional response to the first primitive comprises a function selected from the group consisting of:

5 (i) changing the set of control logic so as to disable the device from presenting the first signal to the user in response to the first functional primitive; and

(ii) changing the set of control logic so as to cause the device to present a second signal to the user in response to the first primitive, instead of presenting the first signal to the user in response to the first primitive.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first signal comprises a signal selected from the group consisting of an audible signal and a visual signal.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the predetermined signal structure represents a ring signal.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first functional response to the ring signal comprises emitting an audible alert signal, and wherein changing the set of control logic so as to alter the first functional response comprises programming the device to not emit the audible alert signal in response to the ring signal.

8. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
associating the control signal with the given location by emitting the control signal from at least one transmitter local to the given location.

9. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
detecting presence of the device in the given location; and
responsively sending the control signal to the device in the given location.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein the control signal comprises a key associated with a logic modification, the method further comprising:
after receiving the control signal, the device correlating the key to the logic modification and then carrying out the logic modification so as to change the set of control logic.

11. The method of claim 2, wherein the control signal comprises a set of modified control logic, the method further comprising:

after receiving the control signal, the device changing the set of control logic so as to embody the set of modified control logic.

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12. The method of claim 2, further comprising undoing the alteration of the control logic after the device has exited the given location.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising undoing the alteration upon a predetermined duration after the device has exited the given location.

14. A method of altering operation of a device based on location, the device having a set of control logic that causes the device to carry out a first function in response to a first primitive, the method comprising:

when the device is in a given location, the device receiving a control signal associated with the given location; and

in response to the control signal, performing a function selected from the group consisting of:

(i) changing the set of control logic so as to cause the device to carry out a second function in response to the first primitive;

(ii) changing the set of control logic so as to cause the device to carry out the first function in response to a second primitive; and

(iii) changing the set of control logic so as to disable the device from carrying out the first function in response to the first primitive.

15. A method of altering operation of a device based on location, the device having a set of control logic that causes the device to employ a first predetermined primitive in carrying out a first function, the method comprising:

when the device is in a given location, the device receiving a control signal associated with the given location; and

in response to the control signal, performing a function selected from the group consisting of:

(i) changing the set of control logic so as to cause the device to employ a second predetermined primitive in carrying out the first function; and

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(ii) changing the set of control logic so as to cause the device to employ the first predetermined primitive in carrying out a second function.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein employing the first predetermined primitive comprises emitting a first predetermined signal structure, and employing the second predetermined primitive comprises emitting a second predetermined signal structure.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein employing the first predetermined primitive comprises presenting a first predetermined signal perceptible to a user, and employing the second predetermined primitive comprises presenting a second predetermined signal perceptible to a user.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein carrying out the first function comprises communicating a first message, and carrying out the second function comprises communicating a second message.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein employing the first predetermined primitive comprises sending a predetermined signal structure.

20. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
associating the control signal with the given location by emitting the control signal from at least one transmitter local to the given location.

21. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
detecting presence of the device in the given location; and
responsively sending the control signal to the device in the given location.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein the control signal comprises a key associated with a logic modification, the method further comprising:

after receiving the control signal, the device correlating the key to the logic modification and then carrying out the logic modification so as to change the set of control logic.

23. The method of claim 15, wherein the control signal comprises a set of modified of control logic, the method further comprising:

after receiving the control signal, the device changing the set of control logic so as to embody the set of modified control logic.

24. A system for adapting device functionality based on location, the system comprising:

a device having a receiver and a processor, the receiver being arranged to receive a control signal associated with a given location, and the processor being programmed to execute a set of control logic so as to cause the device to carry out a first function in response to a first primitive; and

the processor being programmed to respond to the control signal by performing a function selected from the group consisting of:

(i) changing the control logic so as to cause the device to carry out a second function in response the first predetermined primitive; and

(ii) changing the control logic so as to cause the device to carry out the first function in response to a second primitive.

25. The system of claim 24, further comprising a local transmitter emitting the control signal in the given location.

26. The system of claim 24, further comprising a network entity programmed to send the control signal to the device when the device is in the given location.

27. A system for adapting device functionality based on location, the system comprising:

a local transmission system arranged to emit a control signal into a given location;

a device having a receiver and a processor, the receiver being arranged to receive the control signal, and the processor being programmed to execute a set of control logic so as to cause the device to employ a first predetermined primitive in carrying out a first function;

the processor being programmed to respond to the control signal by performing a function selected from the group consisting of:

(i) changing the control logic so as to cause the device to employ a second predetermined primitive in carrying out the first function; and

(ii) changing the set of control logic so as to cause the device to employ the first predetermined primitive in carrying out a second function.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising a local transmitter emitting the control signal in the given location.

29. The system of claim 27, further comprising a network entity programmed to send the control signal to the device when the device is in the given location.

30. A device having location-based functionality, the device comprising:
a processor;
a set of machine-language instructions defining a first set of control logic and a second set of control logic, the device having a first mode of operation in which the processor executes the first set of control logic, and a second mode of operation in which the processor executes the second set of control logic;

wherein, in response to a location-specific control signal received by the device, the device switches from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.